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News Release

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Contact: Branson Fire Chief Ted Martin, 417-243-2790

Branson man recognized for saving life of neighbor using new CPR method

Matt Hayes of Cedar Street in Branson received a special Lifesaver Award for saving the life of his neighbor who suffered cardiac arrest in her yard last month. The award was presented to Hayes by Branson Mayor Raeanne Presley during the Board of Aldermen meeting June 26.

Hayes noticed that neighbor Judy Caviness had collapsed and immediately ran to her aid. Upon checking her vital signs, he noticed she had no pulse and was not breathing. He called 911 and then started chest compressions known as "Hands Only CPR."

Once emergency responders arrived, they took over life-saving efforts and rushed Ms. Caviness to Skaggs Regional Medical Center where she recovered.

The "Hands Only CPR," also called Cardio Cerebral Resuscitation (CCR), is a new life saving initiative for heart attack victims that is replacing the more commonly used CPR that requires mouth-to-mouth breaths. CCR uses just chest compressions to try and restart the heartbeat.

Hayes said he learned this new CCR chest compression method from his wife who is a nursing student.

According to Chief Martin, it has become the goal of the emergency services chiefs in Taney County to share and teach CCR to residents and businesses in an effort to save even more lives.

"All emergency services in Taney County have adopted this new format focusing on immediate chest compressions even prior to the previous priorities of advanced airway placement, defibrillation and use of cardiac drugs," said Martin.

Hayes is part of the family owned business The Amish Country Store on Gretna Road that has now integrated this CCR training to its staff.



Branson Mayor Raeanne Presley (right) presents the Lifesaver Award to Matt Hayes. Next to Matt is Judy Caviness whose life was saved by Matt using CCR chest compressions